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LB 433

between four and six thousand dollars a child. It depends on where you are and what you're looking at, but those are the working numbers per child--four to six thousand dollars. Childcare is expensive for families whether they live in rural or urban areas, for infant or preschooler costs an average of four to six thousand dollars a year. And if it's...if there's more children then it goes up. As you grow older, the amount goes down, infant care the most expensive, I think one that Senator Raikes will probably want to talk about. I don't need to read you a bunch of statistics. My guess is you know this stuff. You know that childcare is expensive. You know that people struggle with it. You know that part of it's gone underground. You know that there's a problem with finding good childcare. You know that there's a hard time finding accredited or higher quality childcare. When the Governor's Business Council on Child Care finished their work, they made a number of recommendations and, essentially, they said funding is an issue that limits access to care as well as its quality. In other words, there's two problems--the amount and the quality. The council was able to identify several options that would be helpful whether they were considered in isolation or in a multilevel strategy. One was tax incentives, either a program to entice employers to create an on-site program or near-site programs, or to create incentive for employees (sic) to provide (inaudible) a voucher to employees for selection of high quality care. They included, by the way, a suggestion that we change our LB 775 legislation to allow for this, but they also did suggest that there be a separate tax incentive, and that's what LB 433 is. To address this problem, and in furtherance of the Governor's Council's recommendation, I've introduced for two years this bill--one that passed last year and is back again this year. It essentially says this. If you're a company and you'll help with childcare, we'll give you a tax credit for up to three years, in special circumstances up to five. We want you, business, to help us create more slots for childcare, more licensed slots as opposed to illegal slots; licensed slots that meet the standards of quality inherent in licensure that most people in this state use. We want you to help us add more slots. If you create more slots, we'll help you with the costs. We need you to help us invest in better slots, not only in just licensed slots but in accredited slots, and if you do that we'll